

## Project Update: November 2017

Shimba hills ecosystem is located in Kwale County within the Coast Province, Kenya. The Shimba hills reserve and Mwaluganje Sanctuary form the ecosystem that is surrounded by solar powered electric fence and 11 locations. The creation of the electric fence was to mitigate the conflict with local communities. The communities around still face conflicts with the wildlife more so the elephants who destroy their crops which are their major livelihood activity.

This project set off by first identifying the critical areas that are affected by conflicts through interviews and focused group discussions to the communities around (Photos below). From the 11 locations surrounding the Shimba Hills reserve and the Mwaluganje sanctuary, an area of 7 km that is not covered by solar powered electric fence forms the priority site for the project for two reasons: 1) willingness of the communities to be involved in the project; and 2) also there have been persistent conflict reports in these area. With local support from Shimba Hills Forest Guides Association (Shifoga), preparations are underway for 'farmer field training' for the identified members.

